

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143768
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

66011
DRAFTED BY S/S-O:BRAMSEY
APPROVED BY S/S-O:SVALERGA
-----094538 071152Z /43
O 071140Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143768

FOLLOWING REPEAT LIBREVILLE 1486 ACTION STATE USCINCEUR INFO
HQ MAC SCOTT, 21 AF TAW RHEIN MAIN AB, 21 AF MCGUIRE AFB NJ,
ABIDJAN DAKAR KINSHASA PARIS RABAT JUNE 7.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1486

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG
SUBJ: SHABA AIRLIFT

REF: USCINCEUR 061156Z JUN 78

1. AS OF TIME OF DRAFTING THIS MESSAGE (070840Z) WE HAVE SEEN NO
RPT NO REPLY TO REFTEL AND HAVE NO RPT NO INFO CONCERNING ANY
FLIGHT SCHEDULED INTO LIBREVILLE FOR PICKUP OF GABONESE FORCES.

2. MEANWHILE VOA IS BROADCASTING THIS MORNING THAT AS OF
TUESDAY JUNE 6, USG HAS EXPANDED ITS AIRLIFT OPERATION AND
HAS BEGUN (PAST TENSE) TRANSPORTING GABONESE AND SENEGALESE
TROOPS TO ZAIRE. REPORT SAID FURTHER THAT SMALL DETACHMENT IS
BEING LOCATED AT LIBREVILLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. GABONESE FOR
THEIR PART ARE READY TO GO AND INDEED WERE AT AIRPORT THIS
MORNING DESPITE FACT THAT WE TOLD THEM YESTERDAY WE
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DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHEN AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE COMING. ON
RDTRENGTH OF HQ MAC SCOTT AFB 060100Z JUN 78, WE THOUGHT
IT MIGHT BE HERE JUNE 7, BUT WE WOULD LET THEM KNOW DETAILS
AS THEY BECAME AVAILABLE TO US.

3. WE FRANKLY DO NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON.
VOA REPORT WAS APPARENTLY SOURCED TO STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN

ALTHOUGH THIS NOT PERFECTLY CLEAR. WHATEVER, WE STRGONGLY
SUGGEST VOA STOP CARRYING STORY FORTHWITH OR AT LEAST UNTIL
SUCH TIME AS PICKUP ACTUALLY MADE. FACT THAT GABONE IS
SENDING FORCES WAS NOT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE HERE UNTIL VOA
BROADCAST AND MAY WELL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED UNTIL TROOPS
HAVE LEFT. IT DOES SEEM TO US THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOG
PARTICIPATION OUGHT TO BE PRINCIPALLY GABONESE MATTER.

4. WE ALSO PUZZLED WITH REPEATED REFERENCES TO FRENCH ROLE.
WITH EXCEPTION OF FRENCH INSTRUCTION TO TELL GABONESE
TO REQUEST AIRLIFT FROM US (WHICH WAS DONE), WE KNOW
OF NO OTHER FRENCH ROLE HERE, AND INDEED FRENCH KNOW MUCH
LESS HERE THAN WE DO. DOES PICKUP OF GABONESE TROOPS DEPEND
UPON SOME FURTHER FRENCH ROLE HERE THAT NOT CLEAR TO USUS?
TIENKEN UNQUOTE VANCE

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